

Second Bircher Completes American Party's Ticket

By Robert Weston

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Aug. 5 (UPI)—The American Party completed an all-Birch presidential ticket today.

By acclamation, the party's conviction chose Thomas J. Anderson, 61, a farm magazine publisher from Pigeon Forge, Tenn., as its nominee for Vice President to run with presidential candidate John G. Schmitz, a lame-duck California congressman.

Anderson, a long-time leader in the John Birch Society who never has run for public office, described himself as a "crusader for many years for such causes as a return to constitutional government, free enterprise and local government responsibility."

Schmitz said he was mindful of the balance Anderson could give the ticket when he

chose him for his running mate. "He's a Protestant from the South, while I'm a Catholic from the West Coast," Schmitz said.

Anderson was chosen after four other candidates withdrew. Included among the other candidates was Clay Smothers of Dallas, a black radio editorialist who also had placed himself in nomination as a Democratic vice presidential candidate at the Democratic National Convention.

The convention officially adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Schmitz acknowledged concern among the 1,500 delegates to the party's first national convention that the American Party would drift from the populist image that George C. Wallace gave it and become known as a captive of the John Birch Society.

But, Schmitz said, "I don't

think a man should be disqualified from office because he is a John Bircher. Most of this concern has been expressed by the John Birchers themselves. The answer is that we don't want the left-wing press dictating who gets the nomination."

Schmitz also said at a news conference that he does not expect Wallace, the party's founder, to endorse him publicly.

"I don't anticipate him endorsing anyone but he has told me I'm one of his favorite people," Schmitz said.

Schmitz said it gave him an inner satisfaction to be able to run against President Nixon after "being purged" by the Nixon Republicans when he was defeated in the June congressional primary in Mr. Nixon's home district of Orange County, Calif.



Rep. John G. Schmitz, 41, smiles after selection as American Party vice president.